

Mr. Hugh Dibley



The Leathersellers' Company  
Dinner to celebrate Nick Cook's  
88th Birthday  
Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

*(By kind patronage of the Master Leatherseller)*

The origins of the Leathersellers lie in the Middle Ages when they controlled London's trade in light leather goods and prepared hides. They obtained their first Ordinances, or rules of government, in 1398 when Richard Whittington was Mayor.

In 1444 the Leathersellers obtained a Royal Charter from Henry VI. The original is displayed in our Court Room. Their first Hall stood near the present junction of London Wall and Copthall Avenue. Leathersellers are number 15 in the order of precedence, and the number of Liverymen is restricted to 150.

In 1543 the Company moved from London Wall to its present site, just off Bishopsgate, thanks to a benefactor, John Hasilwood. He donated most of the £380 required to purchase the lands and buildings of St. Helen's Priory, an important Benedictine convent closed down under Henry VIII.

In recent centuries links between the Leathersellers and the leather trade have diminished, but never disappeared. The Company is still an advocate for the leather industry. However, its work now centres on charitable and educational activities. These are wide-ranging, but include almshouses at Barnet and schools in south-east London (Colfe's and the Leathersellers' Federation of Schools, a trio of schools in Lewisham under the Prendergast banner).

The Company has re-developed its St Helen's property several times as buildings have needed replacement or disaster has struck. The third Hall burnt down in 1819 and the fifth Hall was bombed in 1941. The sixth Hall closed in 2011 and a brand new, seventh Hall, designed by Eric Parry, was officially opened in May 2017 by HRH the Earl of Wessex.

The early 20's century facade has been retained but the new Hall is contemporary in style - though incorporating many features from previous Halls, such as the magnificent wrought-iron gates of 1878 and a splendid stained glass window of 1937 showing Henry VI.

The Court Room is lined in American walnut and is a suitably dignified setting for Court meetings and displaying the Charters. The Reception Room is light and airy, with a central glass sculpture by renowned American artist Dale Chihuly. A dramatic spiral stairway descends to the Dining Hall, where the main feature is a tapestry designed by Victoria Crowe, an artist known for her use of rich colour. Forty metres long, it took three years to weave at the Dovecot Studio in Edinburgh, and incorporates many themes from leather making and the long and illustrious history of the Leathersellers' Company.



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## NUMBER 88

*The number 8 symbolises fortune and good luck in Chinese culture. The number 88 is therefore doubly lucky.*

*That is a good enough reason for celebrating Nick's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on this auspicious day.*

## PROCEDURE

### DRINKS RECEPTION

Nick Cook will receive his guests in the Reception Room, where pre-Dinner drinks will be served.

### DINNER

Dinner will be announced at 7.15pm.

Guests should proceed to the Livery Hall.

### GRACE & WELCOME

Grace will be said by Christopher Barrow.

### SERVICE

Dinner will be served at 7.40pm

### LOYAL TOAST

The Loyal Toast will be proposed by Christopher Barrow.  
The assembled company are asked to rise.

"The Queen"

### SPEECHES

Nick Cook

### STIRRUP CUP

Nick Cook and guests will adjourn to the Reception Room for a Stirrup Cup.

**MENU**

**Norwegian Sea Trout**  
Semi-cured, Basil,  
Horseradish Panna Cotta,  
Compressed &  
Charred Cucumber,  
Sea Herbs

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**Herdwick Lamb**  
Loin, Crispy Shoulder,  
Merlot Poached Salsify,  
Cavolo Nero, Baby Parsnip,  
Rosemary Mash,  
Reform Sauce

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**Granny Smith Apple**  
Mousse, Almond Crumb,  
Apple Jelly, Vanilla Custard,  
Brambles, Honey Cress

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**Macaroons &  
Orange Truffle Chocolates**

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Coffee or Peppermint Tea

**TOAST:**

**THE QUEEN**

**THE WORSHIPFUL  
COMPANY OF  
LEATHERSELLERS**



**DINNER  
TO CELEBRATE  
NICK COOK'S 88<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
WEDNESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

*(by kind permission of the Master Leatherseller)*

**WINE**

Pouilly-Fuissé  
Les Combes Vieilles Vignes  
Verget  
2015

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Gigondas  
Cuvée Tradition  
Domaine Du Gour de Chaulé  
2014


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Château  
Raymond Lafon  
Sauternes  
2007

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Mrs Marigold Roberts

Mr Nick Cook

Mr Peter Rainbird CBE DL	Mr Jonathan Clague	Mr Hugh Dibley		Ms Madeleine May	Mrs Jo Nicholl	Mrs Kay Huffner
Mrs Mu Reed	Mrs Rebecca Martin	Mrs Mollie Berwick		Captain Alan Hensher MBE RN	Mr Thomas Barrow	Mr Hugh Jackson
Mr Derek Hammond-Giles	Sir Mark Thomson Bt	Mr David Shreeve		Baroness van Heeckeren	Mrs Celia Crowther	Mrs Susan Murray
Mrs Jane Laing	Mrs Belinda Barrow	Mrs Shirley Nightingale		Mr Richard Griffiths	Mr James D'Arcy	Mr Godfrey Carey QC
Mr Noel Reed	Mr Donald MacPherson	Baron van Heeckeren		Mrs Emma Clark	Mrs Rebecca Emery	Mrs June Clague DOOR
Mrs Gillyane Robertson	Mrs Philippa D'Arcy	Mrs Patricia Heelis		Mr Michael Crowther	The Master Mr Antony Barrow	The Rt. Hon. Lord Sterling of Plaistow GCVO CBE
Mr Nick Cook (88)	Mr Michael Spencer	Mr Michael Ryan		Mrs Deborah Fenton Cook	Mrs Sarah Spencer	Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham
Mrs Venetia Wright	Mrs Felicity Clark	Mrs Pat Jackson		Mr Anthony Keene	Captain Nicholas Wright CVO RN	Mr Alistair Robertson
Mr Andrew Langton	Mr James Brice	Mr Neale Hatherell		Mrs Sophie Walker	Mrs Jane Reed	Mrs Debby Brice
Mrs Mary Hammond-Giles	Mrs Imogen Barrow	Lady Rougier		Mr Alexander Barrow	Mr Christopher Barrow	Mr Gavin Reed
Dr Guy Northridge	Mr Sandy Dick-Cleland	Mr Charles Wheatman		Mrs Montserrat Iles	Mrs Vanessa Northridge	Lady Thomson DOOR
Mrs Sue Hatherell	Mrs Mimi MacFarlane	Miss Minnie Walker		Mr Mark Walker	Mr Robert Heelis	Mr David MacFarlane
Mr Christopher Coleridge Cole	Professor Roger Emery FRCS	Mr James Enoch		Miss Louisa Troughton	Mrs Carole Keene	Mrs Belinda Coleridge Cole
Mrs Hermione Young	Mrs Jacqui Shreeve	Miss Millie Barrow		Mr Hugh Walker	Mr Alistair Iles	Mr Rupert Lewin

Mr Nigel Clark

Mrs Henrietta Wheatman